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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, 31 January 1978.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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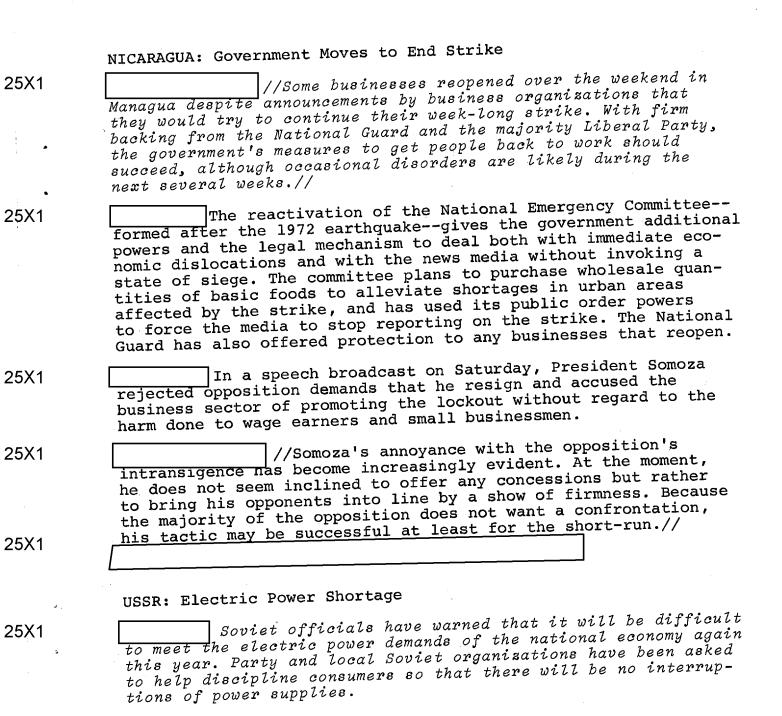
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South Africa



Production of electric power was short of official 25X1 targets last year, even though the planned rate of increase was the lowest since World War II. Hydroelectric power production, for example, was 10 percent below plan. A large hydroelectric power plant in Central Asia, completed in 1975, still has not generated any electricity because of unprecedented water shortages and the high priority given to irrigation. Low water levels have also curtailed hydroelectric production on the vast rivers of Siberia. This year, the Soviets plan to increase the produc-25X1 tion of electric power from hydroelectric and nuclear power plants much more than from thermal power plants. But even the 3 percent planned increase in output from the thermal plants will raise fossil fuel consumption by almost 10 million tons of standard fuel. Because the Soviets are stressing conserva-25X1 tion programs for both fuel and hydro resources, the electric power industry will find it hard to meet these demands. 25X1

USSR: Secondary School Changes

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The USSR is planning to increase vocational training in its general secondary schools. Moscow hopes to cope with a slowly growing labor force by accelerating and improving the employability of secondary school graduates. Many students rejected by colleges and universities now return to school for some form of career training, and this delays their entry into the labor market.

Vocational training in general secondary schools (grades 9-10) will be increased from two to four hours each week. Eighth-grade graduates will also receive expanded counseling services, and local commissions will help them choose one of four alternative paths of secondary education:

- -- Vocational technical school, a three-year program that provides a specific skill but only a slight chance for admission to higher schools.
- -- Secondary specialized schools, a three- or four-year course for technicians and other semiprofessionals.

- -- General secondary school, the traditional two-year program that is the path to higher education.
- -- Schools for working youth, which provide part-time general secondary education intended mostly for those in rural areas.

This four-track system, if enforced, will resolve several anomalies in the Soviet school system. The share of general secondary school graduates admitted to higher schools declined from 40 percent in 1965 to 20 percent in 1976, and increasing numbers of secondary school graduates were untrained and unemployable. Many of these students enrolled in parallel secondary school systems, where they spent an extra year or more and thus delayed entering the labor force.

Moscow is apparently trying to increase the skill level of workers to help offset the slowdown in the growth of its labor force. This latest action follows legislation passed last September that called for improved and expanded vocational and technical schools.

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South Africa

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the leader of South Africa's 5.5 million Zulus, spoke for four hours to an enthusiastic

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crowd of more than 15,000 in Soweto on Sunday. The mass rally was the largest in Soweto since the riots in 1976, but there was no confrontation either with police or militant students. In his speech, to an audience mainly of adult Zulus, Buthelezi denounced apartheid and the homelands policy of separate development. He advocated black unity, described his own Zulu-based political organization, "Inkatha," as the best vehicle for realizing power for all people, and if the black township's leaders are still in prison, called for a boycott of the local elections that are to be held soon in Soweto. Buthelezi also asked striking students to return to school, and condemned any international economic sanctions against South Africa because he believes blacks would be the ones to suffer most. The success of the rally reflects not only Buthelezi's control over his own Zulu tribesmen, but also effective police control of the township and the current poor morale among the student leaders.

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